

## Flight phenology of *Palpita unionalis* (Hübner) (Lepidoptera, Pyralidae) in the north-east of Portugal

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The jasmine moth, *Palpita unionalis* (Hübner) is a polyphagous species that attacks *Jasminum* sp., *Ligustrum* sp., *Fraxinus* sp., *Phyllirea media* L. as well as olive, *Olea europaea* L. Data on the biology, ecology, and behaviour of this moth are scarce, particularly in Portugal. In the present study, flight phenology of *P. unionalis* was monitored from April 2002 to April 2004 in olive groves, at four olive producing zones of Alto Douro region (Mirandela, Macedo de Cavaleiros, Vila Flor and Figueira de Castelo Rodrigo), in the north-east of Portugal. Three to four funnel-type traps baited with the pheromone of this species, formulated at the N.C.S.R. "Demokritos" (Greece), were installed per grove, 50m apart, on olive trees, outside the tree canopy, approximately 2,5m from the ground. Traps were inspected weekly from March to November and once per month from November to March. By the end of 2002, two of the five groves selected at the beginning of the experiments (one at Mirandela and the other at Macedo de Cavaleiros), were discarded as no captures were obtained. Also, two other groves (one at Macedo de Cavaleiros and the other at Figueira de Castelo Rodrigo) were changed by the middle of July 2003, due to the very low number of captures found. At the grove of Vila Flor, where observations were carried out throughout all the experimental period, captures were irregularly distributed from the beginning of July to the middle of November in 2002, and from the end of March to the end of November in 2003. A total of 24 males were obtained in 2002, from which 66,7% were noted in November. In 2003, 178 catches were recorded, the majority (73,6% of the total) from the end of June to the end of November. The results of this study suggest that *P. unionalis* develops several generations per year, which overlaps between mid summer and mid autumn.

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